



William Freeman's homestead was located on the west side of the road just north of the Unitarian Meeting House but his farm included some acreage on the east side. In 1838 for \$15, he sold a lot of improved land, containing one acre, 40 rods, to his oldest son, Martin. It was several acres from the east side of the highway but was adjacent on the south to an old road running from the Meeting House at Hall's Corner to Tremont St., which can still be seen as a cart path. It was here that Martin built his house for his family.

Martin was born in 1803 and married Nancy Moorehead in 1831. They had 7 children, 3 of whom had been born before the construction of their new home: Sarah in 1832, Mary in 1834, Enoch in 1837, Henry in 1841, James K. and James R., twins, in 1844 and Welthea in 1845. In 1851, William sold him an additional 2 acres and 40 rods of pasture and woodland which adjoined his house and included frontage on the highway. In 1860, William's heirs sold him 2 more pieces of woodland and frontage.

In 1882, when Martin was 79, he sold his homestead, containing 5 acres, to his eldest son, Enoch, reserving the right to occupy the premises during his natural life. Enoch was married to Helen Weston of Millbrook in 1859 and they had but one daughter, also Helen, who married Martin Hanigan, had 2 sons and probably lived in the homestead until her early death.

Enoch was an undertaker by trade and the town records report that his father, Martin, made

coffins. By 1904, there were several outbuildings, one of which was a 2-story affair; that one assumes had been used for his equipment and business. It has since burned. Another building was moved nearer the highway and was converted into what is now part of the house which stands directly west of the original house. In 1904, Enoch and Helen Freeman moved into this new house and sold the old one, with 3 acres, to Samuel Wadsworth Walker. It was here that Samuel made a home for his son's widow, Minnie, and the 3 children: Arthur, Irene and Edward Wadsworth Walker.

The house faces west towards the highway, has no frontage on the road but is approached by a lane to it from the street and may be part of the aforementioned old road adjacent to the property. It is a frame house with wooden pegs and corner posts. Both Martin and his father were carpenters which may account for the unusual architecture best described as a 2-story cottage-type plus an attic and one story ell.

The front door, on the west and opening into a hall, is on the gable end. The one story ell and shed is attached to the house on the north side. The present dining room, in the ell and next to the front hall, must have been the original kitchen with a large fireplace, its own chimney and vestiges of a Dutch oven. The present modern kitchen is beside that and was unfinished when the Walkers moved in but was definitely used as a kitchen even then. The front door, with what are probably the original horizontal panels, has long narrow



windows at each side and at one time they did have blinds.

The stairway to the second floor is of simple conservative design but the stairway to the attic is incredibly steep and divides at the top. Some of the beautiful attic boards are at least 20 inches wide. The front parlor and upstairs chamber over it are spacious and exceptionally pleasant with windows on the south and west sides and large fireplaces each connected to a large central chimney. Upstairs on the east there were 2 bedrooms of equal size now changed because of the bathroom. On the first floor at the rear of the front parlor was a bedroom with its own fireplace now used as a sunny sitting room. The cellar is paved with cobblestones and is under most of the main house. The outside of the house gives an impression of plain straight lines, however inside there is a rather unique curved wall in the front hall because of the construction of the cellarway. A partition diagonally across from this, part of the rear chamber wall, has been removed.

This lovely old house comes as a surprise at the end of the lane, standing proudly and surrounded by trees and meadows. An atmosphere of comfort and warmth is created here, perhaps partially owing to the many windows. Only 2 families have occupied this house since Martin Freeman built it in 1838. Miss Irene Walker has resided here for 71 years. -- Virginia Seaver, Researcher